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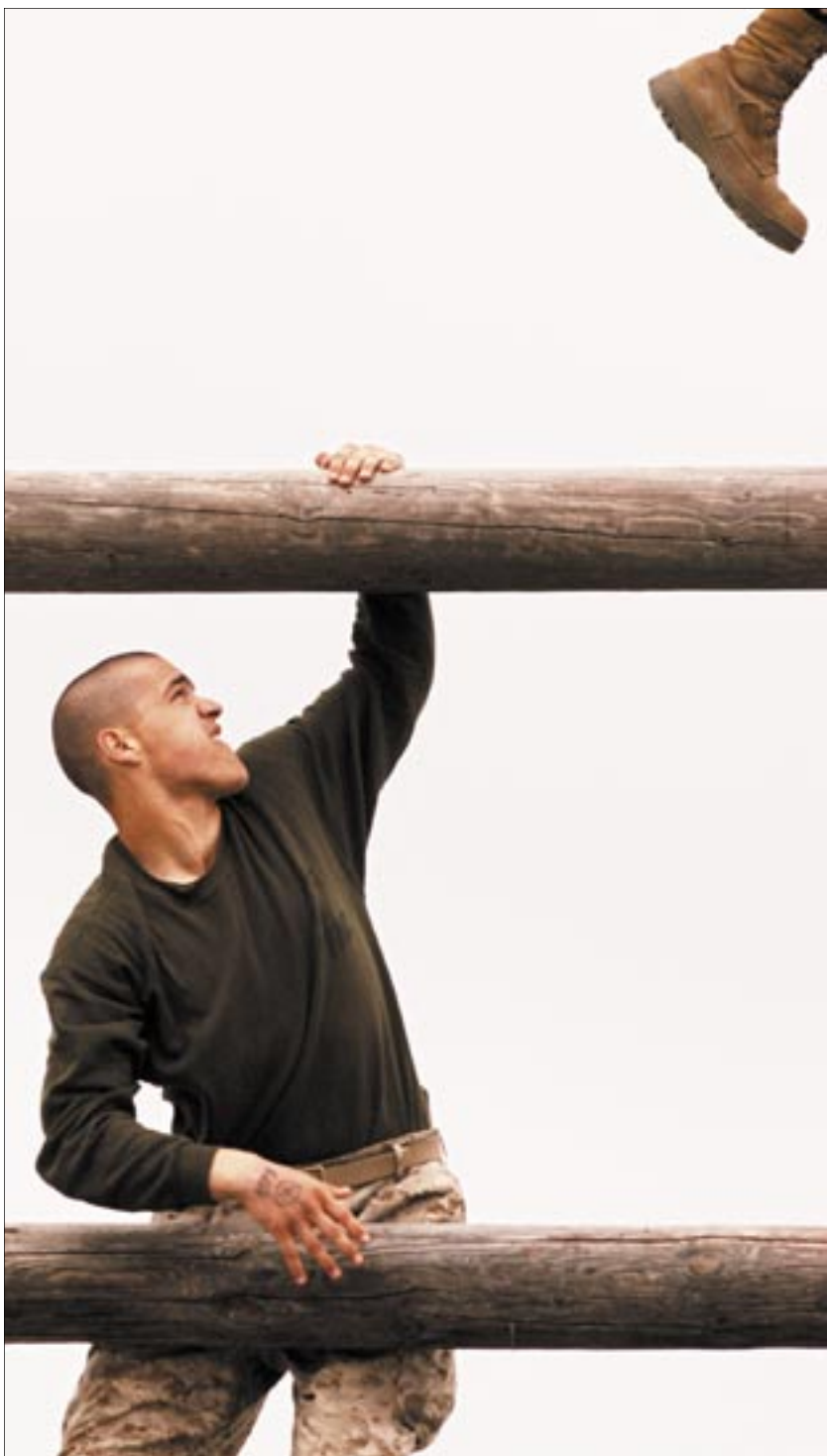
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VOL 65 — NO 12 — COMPANY B

FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2005

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COMING UP | CLIMBING TO 2ND PHASE



Recruit Kevin Campos, Platoon 1073, Company A, scales a 30-foot climb here Monday. This and two other obstacles, part of Confidence Course II, are designed to boost confidence when negotiating high obstacles. See story, pg. 4.

Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron

Grad pins on ensign

Pfc. commissioned a chaplain hours after boot camp

BY CPL. EDWARD R. GUEVARA JR.
Chevron staff

A private first class became an ensign in the Navy's Chaplain Corps at the depot chapel April 15, two hours after graduating from recruit training.

Christopher D. Farino was accepted to the Naval Chaplains School in Newport, R.I., April 14, according to 3rd Recruit Training Battalion chaplain Navy Lt. Frank P. Muñoz.

The ceremony commenced prematurely to accommodate Farino's family, already visiting the depot for his graduation as a Marine.

"I am on a high right now," said drill instructor Sgt. Jesse James Dorsey Jr., Company L, also the first person to salute the ensign. "It is a very rewarding feeling to watch a Marine you

trained become an officer – to go from yelling at him two hours ago, to calling him sir. It's like we are trading spaces."

Navy Capt. Tim T. Morita, depot chaplain, will officially commission Farino in a small ceremony at his office today. Depot chaplains and Farino's wife Cheryl will witness the second ceremony.

The San Diego native is a minister in the Church of the Nazarene and has served as pastor of student ministries at Temple City Church of the Nazarene, Temple City, Calif., for the last couple years. It was during this time he decided it was time to change his pace and pursue another calling.

Three months ago, Farino shipped to the depot and joined Platoon 3059, Company L.

He intended to become an

SEE **Chaplain**, pg. 2

'It is a very rewarding feeling ... to go from yelling at him two hours ago, to calling him sir.'

– Sgt. Jesse J. Dorsey Jr.,
Co. L drill instructor

Depot filmmaker premieres boot camp film at festival

BY CPL. JESS LEVENS
Chevron staff

Filmmaker and depot barber Canaan Brumley gave the film community a taste of recruit training with the world premiere of his film "Ears, Open. Eyeballs, Click" at the Full Frame documentary film festival in Durham, N.C., April 7-10.

"Full Frame is like the Cannes (film festival) of documentaries," said 30-year-old Brumley. "It was truly an honor be in this festival."

Brumley, a former sailor, started this

picture endeavor about two years ago. He followed a Company C recruit training cycle from start to finish and pieced together a documentary-style film with no commentary or interviews.

"I had a vision of boot camp being a surreal, almost dreamy experience," said Brumley. "And that's what I captured in this movie."

When the film premiered, Brumley said he received very positive critiques.

"Someone said that this was the first recruit-training film they had seen that wasn't

SEE **Film**, pg. 2

SERVICE BEFORE PRIVILEGE

African immigrant left well-to-do lifestyle to prosper on his own in American military

BY LANCE CPL. DORIAN GARDNER
Chevron staff

Though college educated in West Africa, when Ousmane M. Goumandakoye landed in the American West in 1999 following his father's wishes, he knew little. He did know, however, that he wanted to be a Marine.

"I got off the plane and I didn't know what to do," said Goumandakoye. "My father told me to remember two words: hotel and cab."

The eldest of nine siblings, Goumandakoye



Pfc. Goumandakoye

said he grew up in Niger living a privileged and affluent life – a big house, drivers, and maids – because his family name once led a storied

RECRUIT SPOTLIGHT

tribe. His father, Mounkaila Goumandakoye, is now a policy adviser and an environmental steward for the United Nations Development Program's Drylands Development Center.

"If a country was tearing down a forest, my father would issue fines for violating environmental

SEE **Recruit**, pg. 6



DEPOT BESTS PENDLETON

Weapons and Field takes V-ball tourney on Marine Corps Base's turf.

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Prevention
Month

Film, pg. 1
political,” said Brumley. “That meant a lot to me because that was one of the things I strived for when I made it.”
A festival program Brumley brought back from Full Frame said, “Semper Fi and Black ‘neath the eyes. This is what little soldiers are made of. Head off to boot camp in big, bold wide-screen and don’t piss off your sergeant. Director Canaan Brumley has an unsentimental eye for how we turn mere men into Marines and



Filmmaker and depot barber Canaan Brumley

an artistic commitment to economy, intensity and access.”
The front page of the festival’s newsletter features a still shot from “Ears, Open.”
The film’s premiere opened several other doors for Brumley. He received an invitation to show his film at the Marseille film festival in the French Riviera July 1-6, with all expenses paid. Brumley also made several contacts with movie companies such as Home Box Office, which showed

interest in his talents.
“Getting invited to Marseille and the HBO contact are awesome,” said Brumley. “But the best part was just being here, showing my film and meeting other filmmakers. Full Frame isn’t a place to sell a film. It’s for the filmmakers. It’s my home.”
Brumley met several new relatives in the film family, including D.A. Pennebaker, who made the documentary “Don’t Look Back,” about folk singer Bob Dylan. He also met

two-time Academy Award winner Barbara Kopple.
“I loved talking to the great documentary makers,” said Brumley. “Most people would be intimidated by them, but Full Frame isn’t like that. I just went up and talked to them like I’ve known them for years. When you have a film in the festival, you’re one of them. It’s an unreal feeling.”
Brumley said he plans to start his next project shortly, a satirical comedy about the madness in a news studio.



Lance Cpl. Daniel P. Thompson scoops at Ben and Jerry’s Ice Cream Tuesday to raise money for the depot’s Single Marine Program. Lance Cpl. Dorian Gardner/Chevron

Marines scoop ice cream, raise SMP event moolah

BY LANCE CPL. DORIAN M. GARDNER
Chevron staff

Single Marine Program members scooped for dollars at Ben and Jerry’s Ice Cream Tuesday at Westfield Shoppingtown University Town Center.
Britney O’Connor, SMP coordinator, gathered a number of single Marines from the depot to help raise funds for the program’s future functions and make travel and hotels more affordable.
Once a year, Ben and Jerry’s promotes its parlors by giving proceeds from cone sales to organizations willing to do the scooping, according to Ginny M. Hartin, co-owner of the Ben and Jerry’s parlor located at UTC. “We do it to give back to the community, to say thank you,” she said.
Scooping gave the Marines a chance to experience the outlying

community, and it gave shoppers a chance to meet local Marines.
“It’s a great way for the people to see who is defending this country,” said Sgt. David M. Walter, training noncommissioned officer for Service Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion.
The Marines relieved the Ben and Jerry’s employees, and Hartin said, “It was great. I wish it was like this every day.”
This is the second consecutive year SMP has participated in this event.
“Last year, we raised over one thousand dollars,” said O’Connor. “This year we are hoping to beat that.”
After this fundraising turnout, O’Connor expects bigger trips in the future. To get the full scoop on upcoming events, SMP conducts meetings bi-weekly in the depot library. For dates, call (619) 524-8240.

Chaplain, pg. 1
officer through an enlisted commissioning program after graduation. Farino enlisted into the infantry and started training thinking combat arms would be his doing. He requested to see a chaplain because he was scared and needed prayer, according to Farino and his senior drill instructor Sgt. Peter J. O’Brien, an infantryman by trade who said he believes Farino would make a very capable grunt.
God was molding and shaping one of his newest chaplains through this Marine Corps trial, according to Farino.
When Farino spoke to Muñoz, his experience and true calling came to light. Farino graduated from Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, in 2000 with a bachelor’s degree in biblical and Christian studies. He is one year away from earning a master’s in pastoral studies from Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, Calif.
After passing chaplain’s school in a few months, Farino is scheduled to return to Azusa Pacific and finish his graduate degree. With his degree completed, Farino will become an active duty chaplain and earn a promotion to lieutenant junior grade.
According to Muñoz, because of Farino’s experience in the ministry prior to joining the Chaplain Corps, he will be promoted to lieutenant in a year.
Muñoz said the depot chaplains and Marines have never seen a case like Farino’s. Both O’Brien and Muñoz agreed Farino would serve his country better as a chaplain rather than as an infantryman.
According to Muñoz, Farino played the role of platoon chaplain without the rank. In recruit training, the Marines knew him as “Chap” or “Chaps.” At nights, Farino huddled with more than 20 recruits from his platoon in Protestant prayer, according to O’Brien. He trained right alongside them and made himself available for their religious needs.



Christopher D. Farino pins the Navy emblem onto his garrison cover after being promoted from private first class to Navy ensign in a ceremony April 15. Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron photos



Farino received his first salute from his drill instructor, Sgt. Jesse James Dorsey Jr., who joined other enlisted Marines and sailors outside the depot chapel to participate in the ceremony.

Pay attention, get involved with politics, no matter big or small

BY CPL. MICAH SNEAD
Contributing writer

It’s time to get political, Marines. Well actually it’s way past time, but now is a good chance to stop and think about it.
No matter where you are from or where you currently are, someone from your local school board to the Commander in Chief is making decisions that will affect your life. If you aren’t paying attention, you’re doing yourself and your country a great disservice.
Politics are the process and method of making decisions for groups. Normally when cable news talking heads mention politics, they are going to tell you something very unexciting (and sometimes depressing) about Republicans and Democrats. To the average American, politics means government and elected officials. However, city, state and federal leaders aren’t the only ones making decisions. Any group of people, like churches, schools, clubs and teams, employ some form of politics.
In fact, Marines and other service members are gifted

in the sense their leaders are empowered according to their experience and performance, not popular selection or an electoral college. Jarheads don’t have much use for office politics. Maybe everyone won’t agree the military has the best style of running things, but it definitely simplifies life for the little guys.
But that doesn’t let us off the hook. Marines should not ignore the politics of the outside world that affect our everyday lives.
Sure, things are busy enough already. Consider the average Marine has a family, friends, Marine Corps duties and responsibilities that extend well beyond a 9-to-5 job and off-duty education. Trying to squeeze in some rest and relaxation between all that is hard enough, and yet here I am suggesting that you add one more duty to your day. Bear with me.
One day, maybe tomorrow, maybe 20 years from now, you’re going to be separated from the Marine Corps. No more free college classes, automatic paychecks, health care or housing. So now what? Well now you’ve got to discover what veterans benefits your state offers, how

to manage your finances without a guaranteed income, where to turn for health care and how many city, state or federal regulations your home has to comply with. If some of those laws, regulations and policies don’t jive with your lifestyle, what can you do about it? Nothing. You should have been paying attention when those decisions were being made.
Unless you’re married or connected in some other close fashion to a Parent Teacher Association leader, pastor, county councilman, mayor, governor, senator, federal judge, king, etc., there probably aren’t many group leaders making decisions based on what is best for you. If you aren’t paying attention, there could be none very easily.
Harold Lasswell, a political scientist and communications theorist, defined politics as “who gets what, when and how.” If you aren’t pushing for yours now, when will you start?
Cpl. Snead is a combat correspondent at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

‘From Liberation to the Pursuit of Justice’

FROM THE U.S. HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Holocaust Remembrance Day, May 6, is a day that has been set aside for remembering the victims of the Holocaust and for reminding Americans of what can happen to civilized people when bigotry, hatred and indifference reign. The United States Holocaust Memorial Council, created by act of Congress in 1980, was mandated to lead the nation in civic commemorations and to encourage appropriate remembrance observances throughout the country. Observances and remembrance activities can occur during the week of remembrance, which runs from the Sunday before through the Sunday after the actual date.

While there are obvious religious aspects to such a day, it is not a religious observance as such. The internationally-recognized date comes from the Hebrew calendar and corresponds to the 27th day of Nisan on that calendar. That is the date on which Israel commemorates the victims of the Holocaust. In Hebrew, Holocaust Remembrance Day is called Yom Hashoah.

The Holocaust is not merely a story of destruction and loss; it is a story of an apathetic world and a few rare individuals of extraordinary courage. It is a remarkable story of the human spirit and the life that flourished before the Holocaust, struggled during its darkest hours, and ultimately prevailed as survivors rebuilt their lives.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is mandated by Congress to educate Americans about the history of the Holocaust and to annually commemorate its victims in the national Days of Remembrance observance. The Museum has designated “From Liberation to the Pursuit of Justice” as the theme for this year’s

Days of Remembrance in honor of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Nazi concentration camps and the subsequent prosecution under international law of major Nazi war criminals at Nuremberg, Germany.

Reflection on the liberation of thousands of Jews and other prisoners from Nazi camps and the prosecution of Nazi perpetrators reminds us that we must take action to prevent atrocities and vigorously pursue justice for the victims of such acts of hatred and inhumanity.

Sixty years ago, as American, British, and Soviet soldiers moved across Europe in a series of offensives on Germany, they encountered and liberated concentration camp prisoners. Advancing from the west, U.S. divisions freed the major concentration camps of Dora-Mittelbau, Buchenwald, Flossenbürg, and Dachau in Germany, and Mauthausen in Austria. In northern Germany, British forces liberated Bergen-Belsen and Neuengamme. In the east, Soviet divisions liberated Auschwitz in Poland in January 1945. Just a few weeks before the German surrender in early May 1945, they liberated the Stutthof, Sachsenhausen, and Ravensbrück concentration camps inside Germany. In liberating the Nazi camps, the Anglo-American and Soviet soldiers exposed to the world the full visual horror of Nazi atrocities, lending urgency to the demands for justice.

Combat-hardened soldiers were unprepared for what they found in the camps: stacks of dead bodies lying around, and barracks filled with dead and dying prisoners. The stench of death was everywhere. Although the Germans had attempted to evacuate them, the camps still housed thousands of emaciated and diseased prisoners, a sight that shocked the liberating

soldiers. Those prisoners who survived resembled skeletons because of forced labor and lack of food. Many were so weak they could hardly move. Disease remained an ever-present danger and the liberators had to burn down many of the camps to prevent the spread of epidemics. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower made a deliberate visit to the Ohrdruf camp in order to witness personally the evidence of atrocities that

“beggared description.” Publicly expressing shock and revulsion, he urged others to see the camps first-hand, lest “the stories of Nazi brutality” be forgotten or dismissed as merely “propaganda.”

Like all survivors of the camps, Jews were plagued by illness and exhaustion. But, unlike those from other victim groups, Jewish survivors emerged from concentration camps and hiding places into a Europe in which they felt they no longer had a place. They had not only lost their families, but also their homes and in most cases, their entire communities, during the Holocaust. Many Jews were reluctant to return to their home countries because of continuing anti-Semitism and fear of communist rule. They faced a long and difficult road to recovery.

After the war, military tribunals in Poland, the Soviet Union, occupied Germany, and elsewhere prosecuted captured Nazi officials under a variety of charges, many of which paralleled what were later defined as “crimes against humanity.” While several Nazi leaders, including Hitler, Himmler, and Goebbels, committed suicide in the final days of the Nazi regime, representatives of the victorious Allies prosecuted other major offenders in the best-known war crimes trial, the Nuremberg Trial, held at the Palace of Justice in Nuremberg, Germany, between November 1945 and August 1946. Under

the auspices of the International Military Tribunal, prosecutors and judges from the four occupying powers (Great Britain, France, the Soviet Union, and the United States), tried some of the leading officials of the Nazi regime on four counts, including a newly defined count of “crimes against humanity,” in which significant evidence relating to the Nazi effort to murder the European Jews was introduced. Several prominent Nazis were sentenced to death, others received prison sentences, and a few were acquitted.

In the three years following this major trial, the IMT conducted 12 subsequent trials before U.S. Military Tribunals and presided over by U.S. judges. The proceedings were directed at second- and third-ranking officials of the Nazi regime. They included concentration camp administrators, commanders of the mobile killing units of the Security Police (Einsatzgruppen), Nazi physicians, and public health officials. Ultimately, only a minority of the perpetrators were indicted. And, in the end, many Nazis escaped judgment or were treated with leniency.

Nonetheless, the Nuremberg trials have had a major impact on international law over the last 60 years. The International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, the Special Court for Sierra Leone, and the recently created International Criminal Court are all part of the legacy of Nuremberg and of ongoing efforts of the world community to prevent and punish the crime of genocide.

We encourage you to join with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in observing the Days of Remembrance.

For more information, contact: Days of Remembrance, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, S.W., Washington, DC 20024, or visit www.ushmm.org.

BRIEFS

USMCCCA photo contest

The San Diego County Chapter of the United States Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association announces its first photography contest.
Recognition and awards will be given for patriotic photos taken since 9/11. Interested individuals are invited to submit 8x10 original photos with a \$10 entry fee to SDCC USMCCCA PHOTO CONTEST, President C. M. Nelson, 4970 Frink Avenue, San Diego, CA 92117 by May 30. All submissions should include a completed entry form with the title of photograph, and the photographer’s name and address.

Scholarship applications

The MCRD Museum Historical Society is now taking applications for the Col. Nate Smith Memorial College Scholarship,

which will be three cash awards of \$500. Applicants must be active duty enlisted Marines or sailors stationed at the depot or in the Western Recruiting Region, or their dependants. Interested applicants may pick up an application at the Historical Society office in James L. Day Hall, the command museum in Building 26. For additional information, please contact Pat Hawkins at the society office, (619) 534-4426 or (619) 534-0076. The application deadline is June 24.

National U.S. Marine Parents’ Conference

The second annual National Marine Corps Parents’ Conference will be held at the Hilton Hotel & Conference Center in Kansas City, Mo., July 28-31.
The conference will include workshops, a city tour, a golf

outing, and buffets. For more information, visit www.marineparentsunited.com, or call (608) 455-7276 or (260) 636-3102.

Wings Over Gillespie Air Show

The 11th annual Wings Over Gillespie Air Show on Gillespie Field is April 29 to May 1 in El Cajon near Interstate 8 and Route 67. More than 50 aircraft will be at Gillespie Field commemorating the event. Some aircraft have walk-through tours available, and shaded seating is available for more than 400 people. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II.

The field is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. General admission is \$12; children 10 and under are free, and military personnel with identification are \$6. April 29 is Schools Day, which

means free admission for students and their adult chaperones. Advance ticket sales are available on the Web at www.wingsovergillespie.org. For more information, call (888) 215-7000.

OneSource helps parents

April is Month of the Military Child and National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Parents can benefit from new ideas and information on improving their parenting skills. OneSource offers tips to manage your toddlers temper tantrums or surviving the teenage years. If you live on or close to a Marine Corps installation, an MCCS OneSource consultant can link you up with your local New Parent Support Program. It’s another source of support for expecting parents or those with young children. Programs also offer workshops

including “Baby Boot Camp.”

For more information on parenting, visit MCCS OneSource on the Web at www.mccsonesource.com.

Log in with the username “Marines” and the password “Semperfi,” or call MCCS OneSource at (800) 869-0278 to speak with a trained consultant.

MCCS OneSource partners with Marine and Family Services. The service costs nothing and is available any time. Additionally, bilingual consultants offer simultaneous translation into more than 150 other languages, and phones are TTY/TDD accessible.

SEND BRIEFS TO:

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Coming up

Recruits climb high obstacles for confidence before advancing to 2nd phase



Recruit Antonio Sanchez, Platoon 1078, Company A, traverses the Slide for Life obstacle at Confidence Course II here. After completing a portion, he hung by his hands and changed his grip before finishing the obstacle feet-first. *Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron*



Before the recruits tackled the heights of Confidence Course II Monday, 1st Sgt. Carlos A. Reina, Company A first sergeant, talked to his men about the weeks to come in recruit training. *Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron*



Recruit David A. Villareal, Platoon 1077, Company A, plummets toward the chilly water below the Slide for Life. Recruits who fail the obstacle must return to the barracks to change into a dry uniform. *Cpl. Jess Levens/Chevron*

BY CPL. JESS LEVENS
Chevron staff

One week before recruits go north to Camp Pendleton and begin rifle and field training, they execute a motivational exercise called Confidence Course II.

"It's really a confidence booster," said Staff Sgt. Roger Taylor, close combat instructor, Instructional Training Company. "Confidence Course II is where the recruits tackle all the high obstacles."

The three high obstacles are the Confidence Climb, A-Frame and the Slide for Life, a trademark of recruit training. Along with these three obstacles, the recruits also take on four of the low obstacles for Confidence Course I, which they completed a week prior, according to Taylor.

The Confidence Climb is like a vertical railroad track into the sky. Logs spaced apart connect two poles, and ascend about 30 feet. The recruits must climb to the top, straddle over the top log, and descend the other side.

The A-Frame is the toughest obstacle for recruits to conquer, according to Taylor. Recruits must climb a rope and maneuver through three logs. Once through the logs, they walk about 20 feet over wooden beams to two A-shaped structures. Recruits must climb to the top, swing on to a rope and inch down to the ground.

The last obstacle the recruits overtake is the Slide for Life – three cables stretching off a tower, over a swimming pool and onto the ground. Recruits start by inching along a cable like a caterpillar. Once a recruit traverses a portion of the cable, a drill instructor orders him to hang by his hands and face the end of the pool. From there, the recruit kicks his legs up to catch the cable, and works his way to the end. Many recruits lose their grips and fall into the pool with a chilling splash.

"The pool is only about four feet deep," said Taylor. "A lot of recruits can't swim because we haven't trained them yet, so when they fall in, we tell them to just put their feet down."

Also for safety reasons, once a recruit falls in the water, he is done training.

"If a recruit falls in, we tell them to un-blouse their boots to let the water out, and then go back to the (barracks). This is to prevent the recruits from getting sick."

Not all recruits fall in the water though. Under the higher portion of the cable is a safety net. The net is in place because the shallow water may not break a recruit's fall from that high up, according to Taylor.

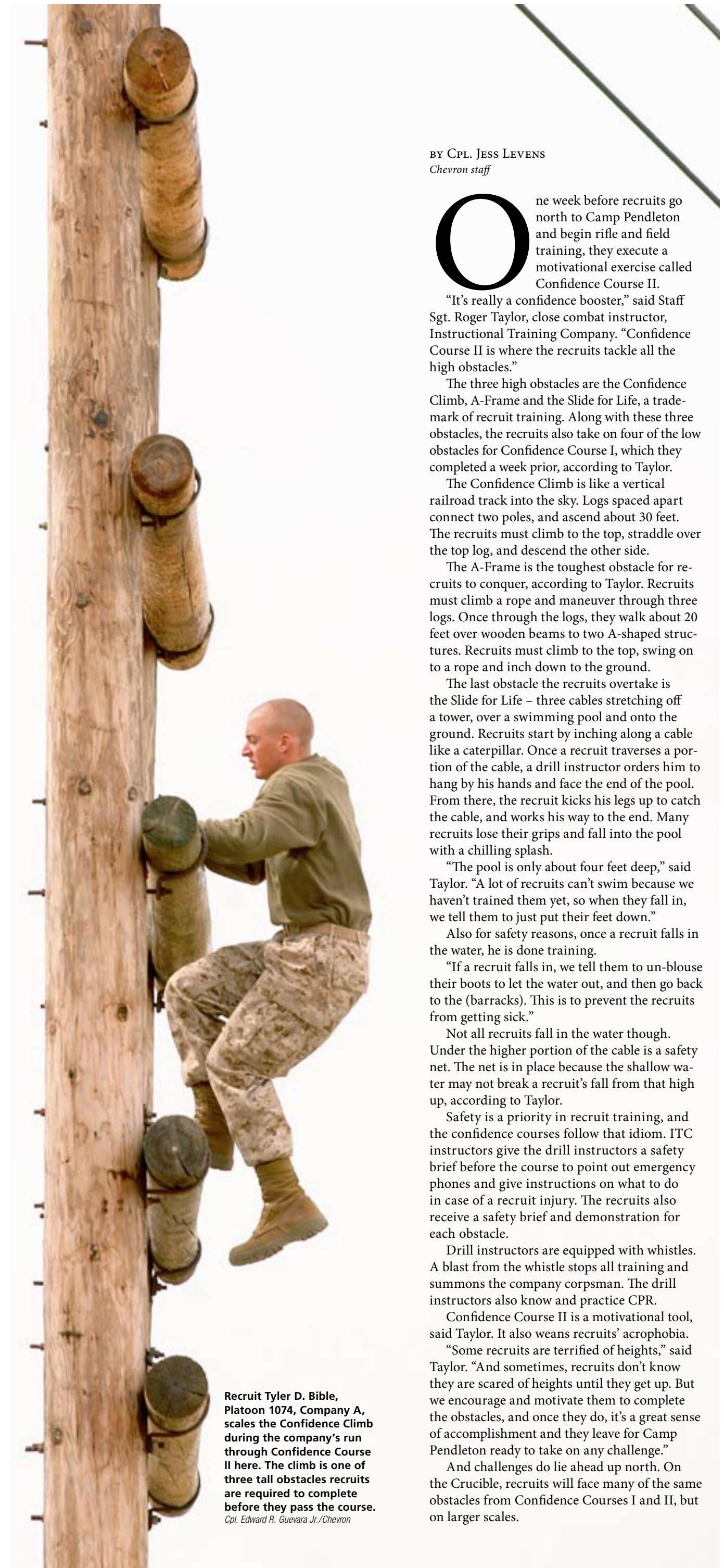
Safety is a priority in recruit training, and the confidence courses follow that idiom. ITC instructors give the drill instructors a safety brief before the course to point out emergency phones and give instructions on what to do in case of a recruit injury. The recruits also receive a safety brief and demonstration for each obstacle.

Drill instructors are equipped with whistles. A blast from the whistle stops all training and summons the company corpsman. The drill instructors also know and practice CPR.

Confidence Course II is a motivational tool, said Taylor. It also weans recruits' acrophobia.

"Some recruits are terrified of heights," said Taylor. "And sometimes, recruits don't know they are scared of heights until they get up. But we encourage and motivate them to complete the obstacles, and once they do, it's a great sense of accomplishment and they leave for Camp Pendleton ready to take on any challenge."

And challenges do lie ahead up north. On the Crucible, recruits will face many of the same obstacles from Confidence Courses I and II, but on larger scales.



Recruit Tyler D. Bible, Platoon 1074, Company A, scales the Confidence Climb during the company's run through Confidence Course II here. The climb is one of three tall obstacles recruits are required to complete before they pass the course. *Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron*



Pfc. Ousmane M. Goumandakoye, Platoon 1057, Company B, said training had a rough start, but he later would compare his drill instructors to angels. Staff Sgt. Scott Dunn/Chevron

Recruit, from pg. 1

policy,” said Goumandakoye.

In Niamey, Niger’s capital, Goumandakoye first encountered the few and the proud.

“We lived near the (American) embassy and I always saw Marines standing outside the building,” said Goumandakoye. “I talked to one of them one day; I think I was 17. He was very nice and courteous. That is when I knew that I wanted to be a Marine.”

Goumandakoye was 22 when he came to America to continue his college education, and he faced challenges the moment he touched down in Arizona.

“I knew nobody – knew nothing about the country, and I didn’t speak a word of English,” said Goumandakoye, whose native tongue is mostly French.

“One thing my father taught me before I left Africa was how to be independent – find my way,” said Goumandakoye.

He quickly enrolled at the University of Arizona in Tucson, and after four months of English classes, Goumandakoye said he had the language down. His education continued at Pima Community College in Tucson where he studied business administration. After two years at Pima, he returned to U of A to work on a bachelor’s degree in engineering.

While living and learning the American lifestyle, Goumandakoye met 19-year-old Melissa Carpio, and they married June 1, 2002. They own a home in Tucson.

When Goumandakoye turned 28

– and with about one semester away from earning his degree – he enlisted in the Marine Corps. He called his father, the one backing the tuition, and explained to him what he had to do.

Goumandakoye hopes to become a naturalized American citizen under President Bush’s executive order in 2003 allowing all noncitizen active duty members serving after Sept. 11, 2001 to apply for citizenship. The order waives a three-year residency requirement because members are serving during a period of armed conflict.

Goumandakoye’s father supported his decision.

“He asked me if I knew what I was doing and I told him yes,” said Goumandakoye. “He told me that if I should die in a war on a battlefield somewhere, to do so with honor. I heard that and it meant a lot to me.”

According to Goumandakoye, his first month at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego was not easy. After all, he grew up with servants and rarely performed household chores in Niger. He said, “I was asking myself one thing: ‘Why? Why did I do this?’”

The first few days were the worst.

“Black Friday,” said Goumandakoye, seconds after thinking back to his worst day of boot camp when he met his Company B drill instructors. Goumandakoye said he hated the first-phase shower routine, and it seemed he never had enough time to get clean the way drill instructors rushed recruits along.

“I couldn’t take it,” he said. “I told myself it would not be like this everyday.”

He endured stress, but he also flourished, according to observers.

“He hardly stressed out,” said Sgt. Ben A. Pettit, drill instructor, Platoon 1057, Company B. “He displayed a lot more maturity than other recruits. You could see that.”

“Goumandakoye” stood out among everybody else,” said Staff Sgt. Roberto Barba, senior drill instructor, Platoon 1057, Company B. “Through talking with him, I could tell he was intelligent – mature.”

Barba offered Goumandakoye a squad-leading position, but the recruit declined because he felt a language barrier would hinder his abilities. In boot camp, speaking is very fast, loud and jargoned – words Goumandakoye had never heard before.

“I feel I could do a better job than some of the squad leaders we have now,” said Goumandakoye. “Being a squad leader is not just about yelling and impressing your drill instructor. It is about making sure your team accomplishes the mission.”

One squad leader in Goumandakoye’s platoon, Pfc. Steven R. Morrison, said, “Goumandakoye” could definitely be a good squad leader. He opens his mouth and he is not afraid to lead.”

During the second month of boot camp when recruits received their field training, Goumandakoye saw things speed up a little, and he liked that. But it also proved to be more physical.

“I had bad knees, and I really felt it go-

ing up the Reaper,” said the 5-foot-11-inch Goumandakoye about the final foothill recruits must climb after marching 40 miles in 54 hours. “I tried to do everything I could not to show signs of fatigue.”

Goumandakoye said he paced behind Barba and a few recruits during the march, and he did not want fall out and upset his senior drill instructor.

“I think boot camp was a little harder for him because he was injured,” said Barba. “He still wanted to go to (physical training) and drill, but I wouldn’t let him because it would have made his injury worse. I knew it frustrated him to stay back.”

According to Goumandakoye, boot camp is not as hard as people make it out to be: “All you have to do is listen. I listen to my drill instructors. They are not gods, but more like angels. Angels lead and teach you the way drill instructors do.

“This is the best experience I have ever had. It showed me what I was capable of. It also taught me an important life lesson: to never quit. Never.”

Said Barba: “He made a sacrifice just coming here. His dream was to become a Marine, and he did what he had to do in order to do it. That says a lot about a person.”

Following his father’s advice six years ago, Goumandakoye remembered two words – hotel and cab – when he came to America. Today, as he graduates as a private first class, the Marine Corps offers two more: Semper and Fidelis.

Staff Sgt. Scott Dunn contributed to this report.

areas of private sector development and financial sector modernization. When his fellowship ended, Greco was appointed acting director of private sector development for the Coalition Provisional Authority representative’s office, where he served as the liaison between the international private sector and the Coalition Provisional Authority in Baghdad.

Greco came to government from the corporate finance house of Stern Stewart & Co., where he was a vice president and managing director. He founded and led Ambrosetti Stern Stewart Italia, a joint venture in Italy that specialized in corporate valuation, fundamental analysis, and financial market research. While at Stern Stewart, Greco also managed the Government Services Division, which assisted government agencies and enterprises with the implementation of modern corporate finance practices.

Before joining Stern Stewart in 1997, Greco was an associate at The Scowcroft Group, an investment advisory firm founded by retired Gen. Brent Scowcroft, National Security Advisor to Presidents George H. W. Bush and Gerald Ford. There, he advised hedge fund managers and corporate executives on managing the risks of investing in international markets.

Greco is the founder and president emeritus of The Montfort Academy, a classical high school for boys in Katonah, N.Y. In 2001, he was elected a term member to the Council on Foreign Relations. In 2005, he was honored by the Italian American Museum of New York for his contributions to America’s cultural heritage. In 2004, he was awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and was named Man of the Year by the National Federation of Italian-American Societies.

Richard Greco Jr.

PARADE REVIEWING OFFICER

Richard Greco Jr. is the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Financial Management and Comptroller. Greco is responsible for the Department of the Navy’s \$120 billion budget and a workforce of 9,000 individuals.



He was appointed a White House Fellow, June 28, 2002, and assigned to the Immediate Office of the Secretary of Defense, where he served as a special assistant. During his fellowship year, he served in Baghdad for six weeks as a special advisor to L. Paul Bremer, presidential envoy to Iraq, in the

BRAVO COMPANY

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT & WESTERN RECRUITING REGION
Commanding General
BRIG. GEN. J. M. PAXTON JR.
Sergeant Major
SGT. MAJ. F. E. PULLEY

RECRUIT TRAINING REGIMENT
Commanding Officer
COL. W. M. CALLIHAN
Sergeant Major
SGT. MAJ. M. L. SHEPARD
Regimental Drill Master
GUNNERY SGT. C. A. WALKER
Parade Adjutant
CAPT. J. E. LOGAN
Narrator
STAFF SGT. R. E. JIMENEZ

MARINE BAND SAN DIEGO
Band Officer
CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER E. M. HAYES
Band Master
MASTER SGT. D. W. PRICE

COLOR GUARD
SGT. R. RANGEL
SGT. B. KIRALY
PVT. T. E. SHEFFIELD
PVT. R. M. SMITH II

- FIRST RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION**
Commanding Officer
Lt. Col. B. S. Blankenship
Sergeant Major
Sgt. Maj. R. Carter
Chaplain
Lt. Cmdr. M. G. Mueller
Battalion Drill Master
Staff Sgt. L. G. Duranleau

COMPANY B
Commanding Officer
Capt. A. E. Sienaros
Company First Sergeant
1st Sgt. S. P. Slattery

SERIES 1057
Series Commander
Capt. W. W. Marlowe
Series Gunnery Sergeant
Staff Sgt. R. J. Gomez

SERIES 1061
Series Commander
1st Lt. R. D. Vallee
Series Gunnery Sergeant
Gunnery Sgt. M. A. Pagan

PLATOON 1057
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. R. Barba
Drill Instructors
Sgt. B. A. Pettit
Sgt. O. H. Gomez

Pfc. R. A. Alvarez
Pvt. N. D. Ambts
Pvt. S. T. Baker
Pvt. P. R. Bartlett
Pvt. D. L. Bell
Pvt. D. S. Bennett
Pfc. D. J. Bjork
Pvt. A. A. Bowe
Pvt. R. G. Bowen
Pvt. J. M. Brawnner
Pfc. B. M. Brige
Pfc. K. D. Brown
Pvt. W. D. Broyles
Pvt. M. A. Carroll
Pfc. P. R. Castillo Jr.
Pfc. A. Castro Jr.
Pfc. K. J. Cobb
Pvt. B. J. Cody
Pvt. R. A. Contreras
Pvt. I. Contreras Jr.
Pfc. J. V. Cuevas
Pfc. J. V. Cuevas
Pfc. J. M. Cuffel
Pvt. M. S. Currie
Pvt. T. D. Daly
Pfc. E. W. Daniel
Pfc. D. J. Dugan
Pvt. G. L. Duncan
Pfc. M. P. Eastling
Pvt. J. L. Fearson
Pvt. J. J. Finch
Pvt. N. S. Ford
Pfc. N. C. Friend
Pfc. J. C. Godoypalma
Pfc. T. H. Garrison
Pfc. J. C. Godoypalma
Pfc. O. M. Goumandakoye
Pfc. T. A. Granger
Pvt. Q. K. Grogan
Pvt. J. R. Hair

Pfc. A. G. Hernandez
*Pfc. R. M. Herrera Jr.
Pvt. J. A. Hunt
Pfc. N. R. Ingles
Pfc. J. A. Iuro
Pvt. D. A. Jackson
Pfc. S. Javed
Pvt. B. J. Johnson Jr.
Pfc. M. H. Kim
Pfc. M. R. Kitchen
Pvt. A. G. Klimov
Pvt. R. J. Kreber
Pfc. K. H. Larue
Pvt. P. C. Lorentzen
Pfc. R. S. Mack
Pvt. M. Madrigal
Pvt. D. E. Marquardt
*Pfc. A. L. Martinez
Pvt. J. D. Martinez
Pfc. G. R. Metzner
Pvt. W. W. Miller
Pfc. S. R. Morrison
Pvt. B. J. Morton
Pfc. J. P. Neill
Pvt. B. M. Nelson
Pvt. A. I. Nevaresesquivel
Pfc. R. O. Nicomedez
Pvt. A. P. Orbeck
Pvt. P. G. Paaue
Pvt. R. G. Pablo Jr.
Pvt. S. A. Sola

PLATOON 1058
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. J. E. Schneeweis
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. E. L. Jones
Staff Sgt. A. J. Peralta

Pvt. B. S. Andersen
Pfc. J. V. Anderson
Pvt. G. E. Austin
Pfc. J. M. Bambrick
*Pfc. B. J. Berg
Pfc. J. R. Britton Jr.
Pfc. T. M. Chieffetz
Pvt. S. P. Cloud
Pvt. T. D. Cooper
Pvt. R. J. Cuestas
Pvt. B. L. Curran
Pvt. P. L. Dawson
Pfc. S. C. Darosas Jr.
Pvt. D. W. Dawesee
Pfc. S. M. Douglass
Pvt. R. C. Durrett
Pfc. M. J. Ellis
Pfc. D. A. England
Pfc. D. R. Escobar
Pfc. C. M. Fair
Pvt. P. Fischer Jr.
Pfc. R. W. Ford
Pvt. K. J. Dugan
Pvt. G. L. Duncan
Pfc. M. P. Eastling
Pvt. J. L. Fearson
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Pfc. O. M. Goumandakoye
Pfc. T. A. Granger
Pvt. Q. K. Grogan
Pvt. J. R. Hair

Pvt. Q. R. Aboudara
Pfc. A. L. Aguilar
Pfc. S. A. Aguilar
Pvt. S. W. Baer
Pvt. W. L. Bain
Pvt. F. F. Barralagapaz
Pfc. B. D. Barton
Pvt. M. A. Beltran
Pvt. G. E. Boje
Pvt. J. R. Broderson
Pfc. K. A. Burciaga
Pfc. S. A. Chirris
Pvt. S. V. Cranick
Pfc. S. M. Cross
Pvt. T. R. Daves
Pvt. E. E. Driskill
Pvt. R. Duran
Pfc. E. N. Elam
Pfc. A. A. Elifritz
Pvt. J. D. Elliot
*Pfc. O. Escatel
Pfc. I. Falconero
Pfc. P. M. Fields
Pvt. N. O. Fletcher
Pvt. J. J. Foster
Pfc. W. H. Garciaasuna
Pvt. J. M. George Jr.
Pvt. B. M. Gibbs
Pvt. C. G. Godsoe
Pfc. C. D. Gonse
Pvt. J. E. Gonzalezquintero
Pvt. T. J. Heximer
Pvt. W. E. Holiday
Pvt. H. A. Hoover Jr.
Pvt. A. J. Horton

Pvt. E. J. Ibarra
Pvt. D. L. Jahries
Pvt. A. Jenkins
Pfc. F. E. Jones
Pvt. A. A. Jones
Pvt. C. B. Kapp
*Pfc. T. S. Kuhse
Pfc. C. L. Liatsos
Pfc. B. E. Liehr
Pvt. R. S. Lowder
Pvt. S. L. McCune
Pfc. K. L. Melton
*Pfc. S. A. Melton
Pfc. B. T. Mohr
Pvt. T. B. Mousa
Pvt. C. L. Mowery
Pvt. W. S. Naisbitt
Pvt. L. Obermeyer
Pfc. M. J. O'Connell
*Pfc. M. S. Orellana
Pvt. L. M. Orlano
Pvt. L. P. Orrin
Pvt. W. E. Over
Pvt. J. D. Pearson
Pvt. B. J. Pfeiffer
*Pfc. A. T. Pinckardmanuel
Pvt. R. A. Pope
Pvt. K. D. Rankin
Pvt. J. R. Rath
Pvt. R. D. Shaker
Pvt. T. M. Triguerosmoreno
Pvt. J. A. Ziemba

PLATOON 1061
Senior Drill Instructor
Gunnery Sgt. C. R. Kinzer
Drill Instructors
Sgt. D. P. Blank
Staff Sgt. A. M. Jackson

Pfc. K. E. Abraham
Pfc. J. R. Arriolaamendoza
Pvt. M. H. Atkinson
Pvt. R. Navarro Jr.
Pvt. S. L. Beeson Jr.
Pvt. B. V. Began
Pfc. C. M. Blackmore Jr.
Pfc. F. A. Boggs
Pvt. A. C. Bradshaw
Pvt. G. C. Burt
Pfc. J. E. Butler
Pvt. J. E. Carrillo
Pvt. N. R. Constanzamartinez
Pvt. T. J. Cooper
Pvt. S. C. Chenaault
Pfc. C. W. Davidson
Pvt. K. I. Davis
Pfc. J. E. Dowers
Pfc. T. F. Egglestonthompson
Pvt. M. L. Emison
Pvt. J. G. Espanto
Pvt. B. A. Esplin
Pvt. M. C. Fero
Pvt. A. R. Frazier
Pvt. M. L. Freeberg
Pvt. A. C. Fuller
Pvt. F. J. Garcia Jr.
*Pfc. E. D. Gorseigner
Pvt. M. O. Guerra
Pvt. A. M. Harris
Pvt. A. D. Hawkins
Pvt. T. Z. Haynes
Pfc. E. E. Hernandez
Pvt. A. S. Hinojos
- PLATOON 1061**
COMPANY HONORMAN
Lance Cpl. H. A. Keller
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Recruited by
Sgt. C. Hotchkins

PLATOON 1057
SERIES HONORMAN
Pfc. J. M. Cuffel
Oakdale, Minn.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. G. Mundy

PLATOON 1058
PLATOON HONORMAN
Pfc. D. J. Greenberg
Florence, Mont.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. T. B. McKeown

PLATOON 1059
PLATOON HONORMAN
Pfc. A. T. Pinckardmanuel
Carmichael, Calif.
Recruited by
Sgt. T. Fenton

PLATOON 1062
PLATOON HONORMAN
Pfc. E. A. Paredes
Bay City, Mich.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. M. Rumfelt

PLATOON 1063
PLATOON HONORMAN
Pfc. J. J. Yanez Sr.
Bay City, Texas
Recruited by
Gunnery Sgt. S. T. Rodriguez

PLATOON 1063
HIGH PFT (300)
Pfc. J. J. Yanez Sr.
Bay City, Texas
Recruited by
Gunnery Sgt. S. T. Rodriguez

PLATOON 1059
HIGH SHOOTER (239)
Pvt. W. S. Naisbitt
Portland, Ore.
Marksmanship Instructor
Sgt. J. A. Donaldson
- Pvt. B. J. Hogancamp
Pvt. S. A. Hunter
Pvt. C. R. Ingram
Pfc. F. Iniguez
Pfc. C. L. Jefferson
Pvt. M. S. Jenkins
Pvt. N. E. Johnson
Pvt. R. K. Judah
*Lance Cpl. H. A. Keller
Pvt. R. M. Lahr
Pvt. R. S. Lanyon
Pfc. R. I. Magallanes
*Pfc. J. G. Marshall
Pvt. J. A. Miller
Pfc. T. A. Morago
*Pfc. C. L. Moran
Pvt. K. F. Morin Jr.
Pvt. J. A. Nash
Pvt. R. Navarro Jr.
Pvt. S. T. Oolman
Pvt. J. W. Panske
Pvt. D. W. Pauley
Pvt. N. Peaches
Pfc. S. R. Peckham
Pvt. T. J. Reuter
Pvt. J. T. Reynolds
Pfc. R. D. Rivera
Pvt. N. R. Constanzamartinez
Pvt. T. J. Cooper
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Pvt. T. Z. Haynes
Pfc. E. E. Hernandez
Pvt. A. S. Hinojos

Pfc. M. L. Campbell
Pvt. P. Collins
Pvt. A. V. Devoto
Pfc. E. Garcia
Pvt. J. L. Gannon
Pvt. M. A. Isaac
Pfc. M. D. Levering II
Pvt. J. A. Magallanes Jr.
Pvt. G. A. Mata
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Illustration by Staff Sgt. Scott Dunn/Chevron

LETHAL WEAPONS

Depot's Weapons & Field Training Bn. dominates tourney, takes trophy in Pendleton CG's Cup

BY CPL. DERRICK A. SMALL
Chevron staff

Crowds roared louder and louder as the depot's Weapons and Field Training Battalion exchanged crushing spikes against Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton's Headquarters and Support Bn. April 15.

WFT Bn. won 15-13 in the last game of a grueling five-game series showdown at Pendleton's Commanding General's Cup Intramural League championship in Mitchell Paige Semper Fit Fieldhouse.

WFT Bn. finished the season with 14 victories and suffered only two losses to Pendleton's 9th Communications Battalion and Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity.

The five-game series appeared to be a tough match-up for WFT Bn. players; however, according to WFT Bn.'s Lance Cpl. Sean Bzdon, an All-Marine

volleyball player, his team struggled for victory because players weren't playing with their usual hunger.

"This game was frustrating because we weren't playing good," Bzdon said. "The other team wasn't that good. Well, they beat 9th Comm., which has a good team. We (normally) play better than how we played today. I thought we were going to lose because we played lazy on defense."

Even though WFT Bn. won the first two games with confidence, they struggled to regain their momentum during the next two games where H&S Bn. took advantage of WFT Bn.'s weaknesses.

"(WFT Bn.) held it together and kept their composure after their lead got willed away," said Col. Ronny L. Yowell, WFT Bn. commanding officer. "They played a great team."

WFT Bn. team members were expecting to play three games and leave, but H&S Bn. refused to give up easily, said Petty Officer 3rd Class Jose Padilla, WFT Bn.'s coach.

"We didn't think the game would go to five," he said. "(H&S Bn.) capitalized on our mistakes and nearly beat us, but we pulled it off down the stretch."

According to Padilla, the additional difficulty of having to win three out of five games, instead of two out of three like regular season play strained

his team's abilities.

"In this (match-up) we had to play more games than usual, and it was hard because we never pushed past three games," Padilla said.

The games took many turns and there are many good teams, but in the end there can only be one champion, Yowell said.

"I was real surprised at the caliber of volleyball these teams played, but to come out on top in this league is awesome," he said.



Team members representing Weapons and Field Training Battalion, a unit assigned to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego but located at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, hold their trophies after defeating Pendleton's Headquarters and Support Bn. 15-13 in the final game of a best-of-five series during the Commanding General's Cup Intramural League championship match, April 15, at Pendleton's Mitchell Paige Semper Fit Fieldhouse. From left to right are Petty Officer 3rd Class Jose Padilla, Cpl. Augie Herrera, Staff Sgt. Angelo Aguilar, Lance Cpl. Paul Galaszewski, Gunnery Sgt. Mickey Lay, Cpl. Shakir Robinson and Lance Cpl. Sean Bzdon. Cpl. Derrick A. Small/Chevron